

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 1863

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES

CHARLES MARSHALL, DIRECTOR OF DEFENCE RELATIONS, EXTAFF,
DISCUSSED WITH THE POL COUNSELOR AND EMBOFF HIS RECENT
TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN
PEACEKEEPING FORCES:

A. UNDOF. ACCORDING TO MR. MARSHALL, GOC IS
REASONABLY CONTENT WITH TERMS OF PARTICIPATION IN UNDOF
EVEN THOUGH CERTAIN PROBLEMS REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT.
HE SAID THE FORMULA PROPOSED BY THE UNSYG FOR THE PAY
SCALE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. THE CANADIANS PRESENTLY RECEIVE
\$250 PER MONTH PER MAN FOR SUCH SERVICE -- THE ACTUAL COST
TO CANADA NOT INCLUDING SALARY FOR WHICH GOC HAS NOT CLAIMED
REIMBURSEMENT. BECAUSE OF THE WORDING OF THE RECOMMENDATION
ON UNDOF, GOC HAD SOME PROBLEMS REGARDING PARTICIPATION.
IN THE JUDGEMENT OF EXTAFF LEGAL DIVISION THE NEW MANDATE
REQUIRED CABINET APPROVAL. THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT
TO OBTAIN DURING PRESENT PRE-ELECTION PERIOD IN CANADA.
HOWEVER, FONMIN SHARP FINALLY DECIDED THAT GOC WOULD
PARTICIPATE IN UNDOF WITHOUT CABINET DISCUSSION OR
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CONCURRENCE, AND THAT CANADIAN UNDOF FORCES WOULD BE

DRAWN FROM UNEF.

MR. MARSHALL SAID GOC WAS ANNOYED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD CRITICIZED THE SIZE OF THE CANADIAN CONTINGENT. HE HAD TOLD THE COUNSELOR OF THE POLISH EMBASSY IN OTTAWA THAT IF THE POLES DID NOT INFORM THE SOVIETS OF CANADA'S CONCERN, AND PUT AN END TO CRITICISM, CANADA WOULD MAKE PUBLIC THE REASON FOR CANADA'S LARGE CONTINGENT: WHICH WAS THE NEED FOR CANADA TO CARRY A GOOD SHARE OF THE POLISH LOGISTIC BURDEN. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE NOTED CANADIANS ARE PROVIDING MEDICAL SERVICES FOR POLES.

B. PEACEKEEPING. MR. MARSHALL WAS SOMEWHAT CRITICAL OF THE INEFFICIENCY OF THE UN BUREAUCRACY ON PEACEKEEPING MATTERS. THIS WAS CAUSED BY THE LACK OF CONTINUITY ON PEACEKEEPING WITHIN THE BUREAUCRACY, HE THOUGHT, AND BY THE FRUSTRATING DELAYS ENCOUNTERED IN GETTING APPROVAL FOR MINOR MATTERS. HE CITED THE PROBLEM OF "UN BUREAUCRATS LIVING IN AIR-CONDITIONED HOTELS IN CAIRO HOLDING UP APPROVAL FOR MATERIALS FOR SOLDIERS LIVING IN TENTS IN THE DESERT."

C. UNFICYP. MR. MARCHALL ALSO REFERRED TO THE CANADIAN CONTINGENT IN UNFICYP AND TO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE US AND CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS REGARDING THE TIMING OF REDUCING FORCES IN CYPRUS. HE REITERATED CANADA'S VIEW THAT A REDUCTION AT THIS TIME WOULD BE PREMATURE.
JOHNSON

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